(SPACE BELOW FOR FILING STAMP ONLY) SOLOMON E. GRESEN [SBN: 164783] STEVEN V. RHEUBAN [SBN: 48538] 2 LAW OFFICES OF RHEUBAN & GRESEN 15910 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 1610 3 ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436 TELEPHONE: (818) 815-2727 4 FACSIMILE: (818) 815-2737 5 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 6 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT 10 11 OMAR RODRIGUEZ; CINDY GUILLEN-CASE NO.: BC 414 602 GOMEZ; STEVE KARAGIOSIAN; ELFEGO RODRIGUEZ; AND JAMAL 12 CHILDS, 13 PLAINTIFF STEVE KARAGIOSIAN'S EX Plaintiffs, PARTE APPLICATION TO CONTINUE 14 HEARING ON MOTION FOR SUMMARY -vs-**JUDGMENT: MEMORANDUM OF POINTS** 15 AND AUTHORITIES: DECLARATION OF BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT; CITY SOLOMON E. GRESEN OF BURBANK; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 16 100, INCLUSIVE. 17 Defendants. Assigned to: Hon. Joanne B. O'Donnell, Judge 18 Dept. 37 19 BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT; CITY Complaint Filed: May 28, 2009 OF BURBANK, 20 Trial Date: 06/08/2011 Cross-Complainants, 21 -vs-22 OMAR RODRIGUEZ, and Individual, 23 Cross- Defendant 24 Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian ("Karagiosian" or "Plaintiff") hereby applies ex parte for an 25 order continuing the hearing on Defendant Burbank Police Department and City of Burbank's 26 Motion for Summary Judgment/Adjudication against Karagiosian, currently set for hearing on July 27

Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian's Ex Parte Application to Continue MSJ Hearing

20, 2010, to a date at least 45 days after August 13, 2010 (the continued date of Defendants' Motion

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27 28 for Summary Judgment/Adjudication against Plaintiff Cindy Guillen-Gomez) that is convenient for the Court.

This application is based on the grounds that good cause exists therefor in that:

- 1. Defendants filed burdensome motions for summary judgment/adjudication against Plaintiffs Cindy Guillen-Gomez ("Guillen MSJ") and Steve Karagiosian ("Karagiosian MSJ"), originally set for hearing on June 30, 2010, and July 20, 2010, respectively. On June 11 this Court continued the hearing on the Guillen MSJ from June 30 to August 13 on the ground that the motion appeared to be "exceptionally burdensome." Plaintiffs seek a corresponding continuance of the hearing on the equally burdensome Karagiosian MSJ.
- 2. Plaintiffs need additional time to take the depositions of Armen Dermenjian, Bill Taylor, ex-Chief Tim Stehr and Janice Lowers. As is set forth in detail in the attached Declaration of Solomon E. Gresen, these depositions are critical to Plaintiffs' opposition, and Plaintiffs have been more than diligent in pursuing discovery. (There have been over 28 deposition sessions so far – deposition dates now need to be cleared not only with the parties, but also with the discovery referee - and a barrage of law and motion matters.
- 3. Plaintiff's attorneys, the Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen, have retained an attorney to assist in the opposition of Defendants' motion. This attorney, Florence F. Cameron, was in an automobile accident on June 9, 2010. Ms. Cameron's car was struck by another car and slammed into a concrete wall. Ms. Cameron was shaken up, badly bruised, and received some soft muscle tissue damage. Her car was totaled. Ms. Cameron has already missed a day and a half of work due to the accident, and continues to experience knee problems that will cause her to miss additional days from work.
- 4. Plaintiffs have filed a motion to recuse Defendants' counsel in this action and intend to file a second motion to recuse, on different grounds, within days. The grounds for the recusal include, without limitation:
- A. The improper and unethical continued use of a confidential attorney-client privileged document which was inadvertently disclosed during discovery. Both Larry Michaels of Mitchell, Silverberg & Knupp, and Linda Savitt of Ballard, Rosenberg, Golper and Savitt were ordered by the

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| 1  | Judgment/Adjudication against Karagiosia | n; and such other and further evidence as the court allows. |
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| 3  | Dated: June 17, 2010                     | LAW OFFICES OF RHEUBAN & GRESEN                             |
| 4  |  |   |
| 5  |  | By: Karry M. Giarble  |
| 6  |  | Steven M. Cischke<br>Attorneys for Plaintiffs               |
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Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian's *Ex Parte* Application to Continue MSJ Hearing

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#### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This is an action for discrimination, harassment and retaliation, brought by Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian ("Karagiosian" or "Plaintiff"), and other current or former officers of the Burbank Police Department, against Defendants City of Burbank and the Burbank Police Department. Defendants filed a Motion for Summary Judgment/Adjudication against Plaintiff Cindy Guillen-Gomez ("Guillen MSJ") originally set for hearing on June 30, 2010, and a Motion for Summary Judgment/Adjudication against Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian ("MSJ") set for hearing on July 20. On June 11 this Court continued the hearing on the Guillen MSJ from June 30 to August 13 on the ground that the motion appeared to be "exceptionally burdensome." Plaintiff seeks a corresponding order continuing the hearing on Defendants' MSJ to a date at least 45 days after August 13 (the new hearing date for the Guillen MSJ) that is convenient for the Court.

## II. ADDITIONAL TIME IS NEEDED TO RESPOND TO **DEFENDANTS' VOLUMINOUS MOVING PAPERS**

Plaintiffs' case presents as one for discrimination, harassment and retaliation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"). In their separate summary judgment motions against Guillen and Karagiosian, however, Defendants have overwhelmed Plaintiff with a mountain of moving papers. Responding to the motions, including the Separate Statements, has proven to be a monumental undertaking.

These are no ordinary Motions for Summary Judgment, and additional time is warranted. Simply stated, Plaintiff needs more time -- more time to work through responses to the hundreds of alleged undisputed facts, and more time to work through managing the dozens of issues created by Defendants. The small staff at Plaintiff's law firm, the Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen, has been stretched to the limit. Defendants are using the City Attorney's office and two outside law firms to tag team against Plaintiffs – the Guillen MSJ was prepared by one firm, the Karagosian MSJ by another.

For these reasons, the Court should grant Plaintiff's ex parte application and continue the hearing on the Karagiosian MSJ, just as it did with respect to the Guillen MSJ.

#### III. ADDITIONAL TIME IS NEEDED TO CONDUCT DISCOVERY

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Despite the 28 sessions of depositions that have been taken in this case, and having devoted a majority of the firms resources to this case and the companion case of *Dunn v. City of Burbank* since they were filed, Plaintiffs counsel needs additional time to conduct discovery with respect to the Karagiosian MSJ.

It would not be reasonable to say that Plaintiffs should have done this discovery before now. In addition to the 28 sessions of depositions taken in this case, Plaintiffs have been forced to reply to an endless barrage of law and motion matters. The following list of proceedings held in the case is taken from the Court's website:

| 10 | 06/11/2010 | Exparte proceeding   |
|----|------------|--|
| 11 | 05/28/2010 | Exparte proceeding   |
| 12 | 05/21/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment (& trial setting conference (FSC date of   |
| 13 |            | 8-19-10 and T/D of 8-25-10 advanced & vacated))                        |
| 14 | 05/12/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment  |
| 15 | 04/06/2010 | Exparte proceeding   |
| 16 | 03/18/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment  |
| 17 | 02/24/2010 | Hearing on Demurrer  |
| 18 | 12/30/2009 | Motion for Sanctions   |
| 19 | 12/09/2009 | Motion for an Order  |
| 20 | 11/23/2009 | Exparte proceeding   |
| 21 | 11/17/2009 | Exparte proceeding   |
| 22 | 10/13/2009 | Motion Hearing   |
| 23 | 10/06/2009 | Hearing on Demurrer  |
| 24 | 10/02/2009 | Motion to Compel   |
| 25 | 10/01/2009 | Exparte proceeding   |
| 26 | 09/30/2009 | Motion for an Order  |
| 27 | 09/28/2009 | OSC-Failure to File Req Ent of Def (& Default/Judgment or, C/M/Conf.;) |
| 28 | 08/28/2009 | Order Re: Related Cases (RE: BC414602 & BC417928)                      |

| 1  | 08/27/2009   | Order to Show Cause Re Prelim Inj (and TRO) |
|----|--|---|
| 2  | 08/13/2009   | Ex parte proceeding                         |
| 3  | 08/06/2009   | Ex parte proceeding                         |
| 4  | 07/27/2009   | Ex parte proceeding                         |
| 5  | 07/22/2009   | Motion for an Order                         |
| 6  | Most recently, and since the time Plaintiffs received the Notice of the Karagiosians MSJ,              |   |
| 7  | Plaintiffs have had to prepared oppositions to both the Summary Judgment Motion for Elfego             |   |
| 8  | Rodriguez and the Guillen MSJ. This has taken a substantial amount of time, and resulted in the        |   |
| 9  | continuance of the hearing date and response dates on the Guillen MSJ. Because Plaintiffs were kept    |   |
| 10 | busy working on the oppositions to Elfego Rodriguez MSJ and the Guillen MSJ, Plaintiffs have not       |   |
| 11 | had the time to take these depositions of those who filed declarations in support of the Karagosian    |   |
| 12 | MSJ. Plaintiffs believe these depositions are important because they believe that the individuals lack |   |
| 13 | sufficient foundation with which to opine on the various matters set forth in their declarations. More |   |
| 14 | specifically, Plaintiffs believe that the declaration of Janice Lower, and the statements contained    |   |
| 15 | therein, lack sufficient foundation, and that examination on this topic would allow Plaintiff          |   |
| 16 | Karagosian to refute the statements contained in her declaration.                                      |   |
| 17 | In addition, there are three depositions which are necessary to present a complete opposition          |   |
| 18 | to the Karagiosian MSJ – the depositions of Armen Dermenjian, Bill Taylor and ex-Chief Tim Stehr.      |   |
| 19 | The reasons the depositions have not occurred thus far are numerous. Most importantly, Plaintiffs      |   |
| 20 | were required to prepare oppositions to lengthy summary judgment motions with respect to Cindy         |   |

te opposition nief Tim Stehr. ly, Plaintiffs were required to prepare oppositions to lengthy summary judgment motions with respect to Cindy Guillen-Gomez and Elfego Rodriguez, and have learned from prior summary judgment motions that this Court was dissatisfied with the content of declarations filed in opposition thereto.

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Therefore, Plaintiffs need to complete the depositions of Bill Taylor, Armen Dermenjian and Tim Stehr (or at least one or two sessions of each) to use to oppose the Karagiosian MSJ. With respect to Chief Stehr, Plaintiffs believe that during the deposition Plaintiffs will learn numerous facts which will be incorporated into the opposition of the MSJ – specifically, the manner in which Chief Stehr describes the act and actions taken against Officer Karagosian will likely conflict with descriptions provided by Lt. Omar Rodriguez, and presumably by Deputy Chief Bill Taylor, which

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will create triable issues in the case.

Lt. Dermenjian was the supervising officer who received complaints from Officer Karagosian of racism, harassment and discrimination. His deposition is therefore necessary to support Plaintiffs causes of action in that regard. Deputy Chief Bill Taylor has knowledge of the budgetary issues surrounding the disbanding of the SED, as well as complete familiarity with matters complained of by Officer Karagosian. It is Plaintiffs' belief that Deputy Chief Taylor will reveal in his deposition numerous facts which will be able to support Plaintiffs claims for harassment and discrimination, including without limitation, the identify of individuals who received the complaints, the manner in which the Burbank Police Department disregarded those complaints, and the institutional indifference which lead to the hostile working environmental.

Furthermore, Plaintiffs wish to depose Janice Lowers, a Captain who purportedly made the decision to disband SED. Plaintiffs are informed that Janice Lowers retired in the same time frame as the decision-making process, and it makes little since that an officer on her way out would make decisions as to whether a particular unit would survive her retirement, particularly when an identical unit was being created at that time by then-Chief Stehr to do the same job. Janice Lowers was then brought back, and Plaintiffs are informed and believe she was paid a substantial amount of money to assist in the defense of this lawsuit. Plaintiffs believe her deposition will reveal information which will allow Plaintiffs to show that the Burbank Police Department did, in fact, disband the SED to retaliate against Plaintiff Karagiosian, among others, and that many of the actions taken against Plaintiff Karagiosian since that time were retaliatory, discriminatory and in violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Initially, Plaintiff's counsel believed that the deposition testimony from the fifteen to twenty (15-20) parties and witnesses in this case, which have been obtained thus far, would be sufficient to refute Defendants' MSJ. However, this Court's rulings on the motions for summary judgement with respect to Plaintiffs Jamal Childs and Elfego Rodriguez have made it clear that this Court interprets the holding in Beyda v. City of Los Angeles (1998) 65 Cal. App. 4th 511, differently than does Plaintiff's counsel. Consequently, Plaintiff's counsel now knows that they must develop additional evidence with which to oppose this MSJ, and that is also why Plaintiff is so requesting at this time.

Plaintiff would be severely prejudiced if he is not allowed to conduct further discovery necessary to oppose the MSJ. Based on the recent ruling on the MSJ concerning Plaintiff Elfego Rodriguez, it is clear that this Court does not believe that enough evidence has been gathered to support Plaintiffs' causes of action. For these reasons, the court should grant Plaintiff's *ex parte* application and continue the hearing date on the Karagiosian MSJ.

The trial dates in this case have been continued to the summer of 2011, and no prejudice will accrue to Defendants by a continuance of the hearing on the Karagiosian MSJ at this time.

## IV. <u>ADDITIONAL TIME IS NEEDED DUE TO</u> A CAR ACCIDENT INVOLVING PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL

Plaintiff's attorneys, the Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen, have hired an attorney to assist in the opposition of Defendants' motion. This attorney, Florence F. Cameron, was in an automobile accident on June 9, 2010. Ms. Guillen's car was struck by another car and slammed into a concrete wall. Ms. Cameron was shaken up, badly bruised and received some soft muscle tissue damage. Her car was totaled. Ms. Cameron has already missed a day and a half of work due to the accident, and continues to experience knee problems that will cause her to miss additional days from work.

For these reasons, the court should grant Plaintiff's *ex parte* application and continue the hearing date on Defendants' MSJ.

## V. THE HEARING SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL AFTER PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO RECUSE DEFENSE COUNSEL IS HEARD

Plaintiffs have filed a motion to recuse Defendants' counsel in this action and intends to file a second motion to recuse, on different grounds, within a week. The grounds for the recusal include, without limitation:

# A. The Improper and Unethical Continued Use of a Confidential Attorney-Client Privileged Document Which Was Inadvertently Disclosed During Discovery

Both Larry Michaels of Mitchell, Silverberg & Knupp, and Linda Savitt of Ballard,
Rosenberg, Golper and Savitt were ordered by the Discovery Referee and this Court to return the
confidential documents, and have failed to do so. Moreover, both firms used the document in
numerous ways throughout the litigation, as set forth in the moving papers. It would, therefore, give

the moving party an unfair advantage to allow these attorneys to continue to represent the City of Burbank until this issue is resolved.

## B. Continuing Retaliation on the Part of the Burbank City Attorney's Office, Particularly Julie Scott and Carol Humiston.

On September 28, 2009, City Attorney Julie Scott improperly, unethically and tortiously communicated with Plaintiff Cindy Guillen-Gomez during a sexual harassment training session. Ms. Scott threatened Plaintiff Guillen-Gomez, and told the assembled 50 or so officers that her case was "Bullshit." More recently, on January 20, 2010, City Attorney Carol Humiston retaliated against Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian by violating his rights under the Police Officers Procedural Bill of Rights, Government Code § 3300, et seq. The deposition was then taken of a L.A. District attorney (Rusty Moore) in which he opined that the only reason for Ms. Humiston to have contacted him and tried to gather "dirt" on Plaintiff Karagiosian was in retaliation against Karagiosian for filing the within complaint.

Defendants' MSJ should not be heard until Plaintiff's motions to recuse are heard and ruled upon. Indeed, all activity on the case should be stayed pending the outcome of those motions.

## VI. THE HEARING SHOULD BE CONTINUED TO ALLOW PLAINTIFF TO AMEND THE COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs will seek to amend the Complaint herein – to allege post-complaint acts of retaliation and other violations of Plaintiffs' rights – prior to the MSJ hearing. Unless that hearing date is changed today, it will be impossible for either party or the court to address post-complaint actions.

A defendant's motion for summary judgment "necessarily includes a test of the sufficiency of the complaint." *American Airlines, Inc. v. County of San Mateo* (1996) 12 Cal.4th 1110, 1118. The court must accept the allegations of the complaint as true and cannot consider facts alleged in opposing declarations. *Id.* Unless Plaintiff is granted leave to amend her Complaint *prior* to the Defendants' MSJ, the court will not be able to consider Plaintiff's post-complaint conduct in ruling on Defendants' MSJ.

In the furtherance of justice, trial courts may allow amendments to pleadings, and if

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necessary, postpone trial. Honig v. Financial Corporation of America (1992) 6 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 960, 965. Honig is based on facts almost identical to this case. Honig and five other employees sued their employer and alleged eight causes of action. Two and a half months later, Honig was terminated. Two years later, and two months prior to trial, the employer filed motions for summary judgment. Honig and the other plaintiffs filed oppositions to the motions for summary judgment and a motion to amend the complaint to add facts concerning Honig's termination, facts in further support of the retaliation cause of action, and facts concerning Honig's difficulties in obtaining new employment. The trial court denied the motion to amend, and granted the summary judgment.

> The appellate court reversed, finding that the proposed amendments, "finished telling the story begun in the original complaint. The added assertions described the continuation of the events asserted in the initial pleading. The parties were fully aware of the events which occurred subsequent to the original charges . . .

The court rejected the employer's arguments related to prejudice and the statute of limitations, and concluded that the court abused its discretion in refusing to grant the motion to amend the Complaint.

### VII. THIS COURT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE THE HEARING

This Court has the authority to continue the hearing on the Karagiosian MSJ.

"If it appears from the affidavits submitted in opposition to a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication or both that facts essential to justify opposition may exist but cannot, for reasons stated, then be presented, the court shall deny the motion, or order a continuance to permit affidavits to be obtained or discovery to be had or may make any other order as may be just. The application to continue the motion to obtain necessary discovery may also be made by ex parte motion at any time on or before the date the opposition response to the motion is due." (CCP §437c(h), emphasis added.)

As the California Supreme Court noted in Hayes v. Superior Court (1940) 62 Cal.2d 260, 264, "[t]here is nothing novel in the concept that a trial court has the power to exercise a reasonable control over all proceedings connected with the litigation before it. Such power necessarily exists as

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| 1   | one of the inherent powers of the court, and such power should be exercised by the courts in order to      |
| 2   | insure the orderly administration of justice." (See also: <u>In re: Marriage of Hoffmeister</u> (1984) 161 |
| 3   | Cal.App.3d 1163; appeal after remand 191 Cal.App.3d 351; review denied, "Trial judge must                  |
| 4   | exercise his discretion with due regard to all interests involved, and refusal of continuance which has    |
| 5   | practical effect of denying applicant a fair trial is reversible error.")                                  |
| 6   | VIII. <u>CONCLUSION</u>  |
| 7   | For all the above reasons, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant her ex parte              |
| 8   | application, and continue the hearing on Defendants' Motion for Summay Judgment/Adjudication               |
| 9   | against Plaintiff Cindy Guillen-Gomez. For the same reasons, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this     |
| 10  | Court continue the dates the opposition and reply papers are due to the appropriate dates as provided      |
| 11  | under Code of Civil Procedure § 437c as if the Motion for Summary Judgment/Adjudication was                |
| 12  | originally set on the continued date.  |
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| 14  | Dated: June 10, 2010 LAW OFFICES OF RHEUBAN & GRESEN   |
| 15  | . 1  |
| 16  | By: /S/<br>Steven M. Cischke   |
| 17  | Attorneys for Plaintiffs   |
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#### **DECLARATION OF SOLOMON E. GRESEN**

- I, Solomon E. Gresen, declare as follows:
- 1. I am an attorney authorized to practice in all of the courts of the State of California an am a partner in the Law Offices of Rheuban & Gresen, attorneys of record for all of the plaintiffs in this action, including Cindy Guillen-Gomez. I have personal knowledge of the facts asserted herein, and if called to testify, I could and would testify competently thereto.

#### **Notice**

- 2. On Thursday, June 17, 2010, at approximately 8:40 a.m., I telephoned Lawrence A. Michaels, of the firm of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP, attorney of record for Defendants. I informed Mr. Michaels that I intended to make an ex parte application in Department 37 on Friday, June 18, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., to continue the hearing on the Motion for Summary Judgment – Adjudication as to Steve Karagiosian. I then called City of Burbank Sr. Assistant City Attorney, Carol Humiston, and left a message giving the same information. Thereafter, letters were sent to both Mr. Michaels and Ms. Humiston via facsimile and regular U.S. mail confirming my telephone conversation with Mr. Michaels and my message to Ms. Humiston.
- 3. Plaintiffs' case presents as one for discrimination, harassment and retaliation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"). In their separate summary judgment motions against Guillen and Karagiosian, however, Defendants have overwhelmed Plaintiff with a mountain of moving papers. Responding to the motions, including the Separate Statements, has proven to be a monumental undertaking.
- 4. Our small staff here at Rheuban & Gresen has been stretched to the limit, particularly in light of this court's prior rulings which indicate:
  - "In plaintiff's opposition separate statement, from UF No. 130 through UF 320, instead of stating, on the right side of the page directly opposite the fact in dispute or to describe the evidence that supports the position that the fact is controverted..."
  - 5. Simply stated, we need more time.
- 6. Despite the 28 sessions of depositions that have been taken in this case, and having devoted a majority of the firms resources to this case and the companion case of Dunn v. City of

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7. It would not be reasonable to say that Plaintiffs should have done this discovery before now. In addition to the 28 sessions of depositions taken in this case, Plaintiffs have been forced to reply to an endless barrage of law and motion matters. The following list of proceedings held in the case is taken from the Court's website:

| 7  | 06/11/2010 | Ex parte proceeding  |
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| 8  | 05/28/2010 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 9  | 05/21/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment (& trial setting conference (FSC date of   |
| 10 |            | 8-19-10 and T/D of 8-25-10 advanced & vacated))                        |
| 11 | 05/12/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment  |
| 12 | 04/06/2010 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 13 | 03/18/2010 | Motion for Summary Judgment  |
| 14 | 02/24/2010 | Hearing on Demurrer  |
| 15 | 12/30/2009 | Motion for Sanctions   |
| 16 | 12/09/2009 | Motion for an Order  |
| 17 | 11/23/2009 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 18 | 11/17/2009 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 19 | 10/13/2009 | Motion Hearing   |
| 20 | 10/06/2009 | Hearing on Demurrer  |
| 21 | 10/02/2009 | Motion to Compel   |
| 22 | 10/01/2009 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 23 | 09/30/2009 | Motion for an Order  |
| 24 | 09/28/2009 | OSC-Failure to File Req Ent of Def (& Default/Judgment or, C/M/Conf.;) |
| 25 | 08/28/2009 | Order Re: Related Cases (RE: BC414602 & BC417928)                      |
| 26 | 08/27/2009 | Order to Show Cause Re Prelim Inj (and TRO)                            |
| 27 | 08/13/2009 | Ex parte proceeding  |
| 28 | 08/06/2009 | Ex parte proceeding  |

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07/27/2009 Ex parte proceeding

07/22/2009 Motion for an Order

- 8. Most recently, and since the time Plaintiffs received the Notice of the Karagiosian MSJ, Plaintiffs have had to prepared oppositions to both the Summary Judgment Motion for Elfego Rodriguez and the Guillen MSJ. This has taken a substantial amount of time, and resulted in the continuance of the hearing date and response dates on the Guillen MSJ. Because Plaintiffs were kept busy working on the oppositions to Elfego Rodriguez MSJ and the Guillen MSJ, Plaintiffs have not had the time to take these depositions of those who filed declarations in support of the Karagiosian MSJ. Plaintiffs believe these depositions are important because they believe that the individuals lack sufficient foundation with which to opine on the various matters set forth in their declarations. More specifically, Plaintiffs believe that the declaration of Janice Lower, and the statements contained therein, lack sufficient foundation, and that examination on this topic would allow Plaintiff Karagosian to refute the statements contained in her declaration.
- 9. In addition, there are three depositions which are necessary to present a complete opposition to the Karagiosian MSJ – the depositions of Armen Dermenjian, Bill Taylor and ex-Chief Tim Stehr. The reasons the depositions have not occurred thus far are numerous. Most importantly, Plaintiffs were required to prepare oppositions to lengthy summary judgment motions with respect to Cindy Guillen-Gomez and Elfego Rodriguez, and have learned from prior summary judgment motions that this Court was dissatisfied with the content of declarations filed in opposition thereto.
- 10. Therefore, Plaintiffs need to complete the depositions of Bill Taylor, Armen Dermenjian and Tim Stehr (or at least one or two sessions of each) to use to oppose the Karagiosian MSJ. With respect to Chief Stehr, Plaintiffs believe that during the deposition Plaintiffs will learn numerous facts which will be incorporated into the opposition of the MSJ – specifically, the manner in which Chief Stehr describes the actions taken against Officer Karagosian will likely conflict with descriptions provided by Lt. Omar Rodriguez, and presumably by Deputy Chief Bill Taylor, which will create triable issues in the case.
- 11. Lt. Dermenjian was the supervising officer who received complaints from Officer Karagiosian of racism, harassment and discrimination. His deposition is therefore necessary to

support Plaintiffs causes of action in that regard. Deputy Chief Bill Taylor has knowledge of the budgetary issues surrounding the disbanding of the SED, as well as complete familiarity with matters complained of by Officer Karagiosian. It is Plaintiffs' belief that Deputy Chief Taylor will reveal in his deposition numerous facts which will be able to support Plaintiffs claims for harassment and discrimination, including without limitation, the identify of individuals who received the complaints, the manner in which the Burbank Police Department disregarded those complaints, and the institutional indifference which lead to the hostile working environmental.

- 12. Furthermore, Plaintiffs wish to depose Janice Lowers, a Captain who purportedly made the decision to disband SED. Plaintiffs are informed that Janice Lowers retired in the same time frame as the decision-making process, and it makes little since that an officer on her way out would make decisions as to whether a particular unit would survive her retirement, particularly when an identical unit was being created at that time by then-Chief Stehr to do the same job. Janice Lowers was then brought back, and Plaintiffs are informed and believe she was paid a substantial amount of money to assist in the defense of this lawsuit. Plaintiffs believe her deposition will reveal information which will allow Plaintiffs to show that the Burbank Police Department did, in fact, disband the SED to retaliate against Plaintiff Karagiosian, among others, and that many of the actions taken against Plaintiff Karagiosian since that time were retaliatory, discriminatory and in violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act.
- 13. The trial dates have been continued in this case, and no prejudice will accrue by a continuance of the Summary Judgment at this time. Initially, we believed that the deposition testimony from the fifteen to twenty (15-20) parties and witnesses in this case, which we have obtained thus far, would be sufficient to refute Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. After we were unsuccessful for Plaintiff Jamal Childs, we believed that this Court simply misconstrued the holding in *Beyda v. City of Los Angeles* (1998) 65 Cal.App.4th 511, 518-22, and that we simply needed to provide additional briefing on that case and its true holding in order to move forward. Unfortunately for Plaintiff Elfego Rodriguez, this was not the case. As a result, we now know that we must develop additional evidence with which to oppose this Motions for Summary Judgment, and that it also why we are so requesting at this time.

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| 1  | 16. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the |
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| 2  | foregoing is true and correct.  |
| 3  | Executed this 18th day of June in Encino, California                                      |
| 4  |   |
| 5  | Solomon F. Gracon   |
| 6  | Solomon E. Gresen   |
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|    | Plaintiff Steve Karagiosian's Ex Parte Application to Continue MSJ Hearing                |